



The Carrington Chronicles

A quarterly update with important news and items of interest for the Paul Carrington chapter membership

A Christmas Message

One of my favorite movies from my youth was "The Homecoming: A Christmas Story", which was based on a book written by Earl Hamner Jr. who had grown up in that area of Virginia during the depression, The popularity of the movie resulted in the production of the long-running 1970's television series, The Waltons.

I've watched that movie many times over the years and as I reflect on it and its characters today, I think of several themes that we should all be thoughtful of this Christmas season....those being the importance of faith, the closeness of family and the joy of personal sacrifice and giving.

If you have access to the movie, please try and watch it this season. I hope it will bring you joy and hope as it has brought me.

Merry Christmas,

Richard Zdunkewicz, President

Veterans Affairs Committee

On December 18th the chapter participated in Wreaths Across America at the Veteran's National Cemetery in north Houston. Despite awful weather, the chapter's volunteers were able to place numerous wreaths at the cemetery to honor our veterans. The chapter also exceeded its fundraising goal for the event, raising over \$2,400 to support the purchase of wreaths.

Congratulations to Stephen Veigel, the chairman of the Veteran's Committee, and to all that supported this great cause. Well done!

Member Survey - Please Complete

The Chapter wants to make sure we have the most current mailing address for members, so we have created a survey web page for that purpose. It is also a great way for you to

indicate your interest in working with a committee, of which there are several that need support - including the Veterans Affairs Committee, the Social Committee, the Finance Committee, the Flag Committee and others.

Please take the time to complete the survey and indicate your preference for committee work.

Thank you.

[Click here for Member Survey!](#)

Winter and Spring 2022 Schedule of Events

January 15 - Breakfast Meeting and Speaker; BraeBurn Country Club, 9 AM

February 9 - George Washington's Birthday and Distinguished Service Award Ceremony, Brennan's Restaurant in Midtown, 6 PM

March 19 - Breakfast Meeting and Speaker; election of Officers; BraeBurn Country Club, 9 AM

April 28 - Social at TBD

April 9 - Breakfast Meeting and Speaker; Officer Installation

May 21 - Final Breakfast Meeting and Speaker before summer break

Approximately two weeks in advance of each meeting, the chapter will send the members an email notification using Constant Contact for registration to attend. Through the process of registration, we can see who would like to attend the meeting.

George Washington and the Battle of Trenton

A Turning Point in the War for Independence

Immediately following his famous crossing of the Delaware River, General Washington marched the Continental Army to Trenton, New Jersey. The army's forces included horses, guns, wagons, and soldiers, stretching for nearly one mile. The weather was worse than it had been crossing the river, but the army continued to proceed as Washington rode up and down the column pressing his men to carry on.

Shortly after eight o'clock on the morning of December 26, 1776, the Continental Army started its charge on the city. Three columns marched through thick snow with Washington personally leading the middle charge. As the soldiers pushed forward, artillery began to fire. At the same time, German drums urgently called the Hessians to arms. To his astonishment, Washington had maintained the element of surprise.

Immediately after the firing began, three Hessian regiments ran from their quarters ready to fight, quickly forming ranks. As the Hessians grouped, the Continental Army entered the city at two points: John Stark marched into the city on River Road from the west, while Nathanael Greene and Washington arrived from the north.

Andreas von Wiederholdt, a Hessian lieutenant, incorrectly reported to Colonel Johann Rall that the Continental Army had surrounded Trenton and there was no available route for a retreat. As a result, Rall decided to counterattack Washington within the city and not retreat across Assunpink Creek. This proved to be costly as Washington's forces occupied the highest ground in the city and had clear views of all of Rall's movements. Time after time, Washington countered Rall's efforts to outflank the Continentals. Eventually, Washington's forces overpowered the Hessians.

Rall was mortally wounded and many of his soldiers broke ranks, fleeing from the fighting. Normally very disciplined, Rall's regiment was confused and disoriented without their commander. They retreated to an orchard east of Trenton where they were forced to surrender.

Despite the large number of Hessians that escaped Trenton, Washington still won a crucial strategic and material victory. In only one hour of fighting, the Continental Army captured nearly nine hundred Hessian officers and soldiers as well as a large supply of muskets, bayonets, swords, and cannons. Washington ordered his soldiers to treat the Hessian prisoners in a humane manner, and the general quickly focused his attention on what to do next. Washington assembled all of his officers in Trenton to discuss whether they should attack another post, hold their position in Trenton, or retreat back across the Delaware River. Washington decided that because of the condition of his army, the best move was to return to their camps across the river.

When the Continental Army returned to camp on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River, soldiers were exhausted. They had marched and fought for two straight days through rain, snow, sleet, and hail. Washington knew that his army had far exceeded expectations at Trenton and that they faced many more challenges going forward. However, he also understood that doing nothing was even more dangerous. As a result, Washington shifted his focus to planning another engagement, at Princeton.

Courtesy of mountvernon.org